

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1001  
By Hensley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sergeant Roger Dale Rowe of the Tennessee Army National Guard.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through their service in the National Guard today; and

WHEREAS, one such courageous Volunteer, Sergeant Roger Dale Rowe of Bon Aqua, lost his life on July 9, 2003, in pursuit of freedom and democracy for the people of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, he was fatally wounded by sniper fire while driving a tanker fuel truck near Baghdad; he was the first Tennessee Guardsmen to lose his life in hostile action since the Vietnam War and was the oldest American casualty of the war; the death of this brave patriot is mourned by a grateful State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Glenclyff High School in Nashville, Sergeant Rowe married his beloved wife, Shirley, at age 21 before first answering his nation's call to duty by serving a tour in Vietnam as an Army Surgical Technician; and

WHEREAS, deeply aware of the rights and responsibilities of freedom and American citizenship, he had served for the last seventeen years in the Tennessee Army National Guard, even volunteering for duty in Operation Desert Storm, although he was never called up; and

WHEREAS, when the United States military returned to Iraq in 2003, Sergeant Rowe was once again willing to serve his country, even though he was not required to enter into harm's way to do so; although his unit, Detachment 1, 771<sup>st</sup> Maintenance Company of

Hohenwald, had not been called up, he volunteered to deploy with the 1174<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company of Dresden and Newbern when it issued a call for truck drivers; and

WHEREAS, according to his family, Sergeant Rowe did not hesitate to go to war, because he believed it was his duty and because he hoped that by fighting for his country he might prevent his children and grandchildren from having to do the same some day; and

WHEREAS, for his heroic actions, Sergeant Rowe was posthumously presented the Army Commendation Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Bon Aqua community, he was deeply devoted to his family above all and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he will be dearly missed by his surviving family members and friends, including his wife of thirty-three years, Shirley, his children, Scott, Mart, Marty, and Regina, and his seven cherished grandchildren, Brandon, Chandler, Zachary, Bryant, Hannah, Eli, and Chase; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and courage in military life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, though we cannot adequately express our appreciation to the courageous men and women of our Armed Forces who are fighting to preserve the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor them to the full extent of our ability, as they make untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, at his memorial service, Reverend Bill McDonald stated, "For the first time in literally fifty years, I came to understand what the price of freedom is."; and

WHEREAS, such was the power and impact of the life and service of Sergeant Roger Dale Rowe, and it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional soldier and human being who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED  
THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE  
CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Sergeant Roger Dale Rowe, reflecting fondly  
upon his impeccable character, his limitless courage, and his stalwart commitment to the  
defense of his Nation as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences  
to the family of Sergeant Rowe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared  
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.